

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain in this application. Claims 1, 8, and 9 have been amended.

The Examiner objected to the drawings due to certain informalities. The Examiner then suggests approaches to correct these informalities in page 2 of the Office Action. The identified informalities have been corrected by the above amendments to the specification (which are based on the Examiner's suggestions).

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Although Applicants believe that the above claims are definite, the Applicants nevertheless amend Claims 1, 8, and 9, as suggested by the Examiner, to expedite allowance.

The Examiner rejected Claim 8 under the pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stanbach Jr. et al. (Publication No. US-2002/0010794 A1) and rejected Claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stanbach in view of Robinson. The following is a quotation of the pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. §102(e) cited in page 3 of the Office Action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a **patent** granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent. (Emphasis in bold added.)

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants believe that Stanbach may not be a proper reference for rejecting the claims of the present application. However, in order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applications submit herewith a Declaration under 37 C.R.R. §1.131 showing a date of invention prior to August 6, 1999. The Applicants note that Stanbach has a filing or priority date of August 6, 1999. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejections based on Stanbach



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be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited.

To the extent it would be helpful to place this application in condition for allowance, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

While the Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Declaration of Prior Invention to Overcome Cited Patent or Publication
(37 C.F.R. §1.131).



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraphs beginning at line 4 of page 14 have been amended as follows:

With reference to Figure 7, in operation, the domain management system facilitates the assignment of domain names to clients and the retrieval of the domains reference by those domain names. To set up a domain name, a client enters the network 84 and accesses the provider computer's domain management system 86, in particular, the name assignment system, or sign-up page. The client enters a desired name for the third and, in some instances, the forth level portion of the domain name 88. Once the client has successfully been assigned a name, the domain name is stored on the provider computer in, for example, a register, a text file listing or a catalog, although any manner of compiling the assigned domain names is suitable 90. No updating of the DNS database is required.

The client now determines the content he desires to include on his newly assigned domain and transfers that data to the provider computer, by any suitable means, including, but not limited to, file transfer protocol ("FTP") and HTTP 92. The content of the domain is now referenced by its directory on the provider's data storage array 66.



IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 8, and 9 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for assigning domain names on a wide area network to a client by a provider operating a provider computer, wherein the domain name is defined by a plurality of name level components including a provider component and a client component, comprising:

selecting a provider component of the domain name by the client, wherein the provider component is defined by the provider;

selecting a client component of the domain name, wherein the client component is selected by the client;

submitting [the] a proposed name to the provider computer, wherein the proposed domain name is a combination of the plurality of the selected components, wherein the domain name is configured such that the client component is followed by the provider component; and

determining whether the proposed name is to be assigned to the client.



8. (Amended) A method for retrieving an assigned domain on a wide area network by a provider computer, wherein the assigned domain is referenced by an assigned domain name which is requested by a user, the domain name having a computer address being defined by a plurality of components including a thirdlevel component, a secondlevel component and a toplevel component, the provider computer including a domain hosting system having a scheduler, a plurality of redirectors, a plurality of servers and a data storage apparatus, comprising:

identifying the computer address of the assigned domain name requested by the user, wherein the computer address is determined by the secondlevel component and toplevel component of the domain name;

executing a parsing procedure, wherein the user requested domain name is translated to a provider defined subdomain name and a client directory, wherein the provider defined subdomain name is partially determined by the secondlevel and toplevel components of the assigned domain name and wherein the client directory is partially determined by the thirdlevel component of the assigned domain name;

identifying a second computer address, wherein the second computer address identifies the provider defined subdomain name; and

transmitting [the] a data associated with the second computer address to the user.

9. (Amended) A domain management system including a provider defined data structure for use on a network system, the network system including a user computer and a provider computer coupled via [the] a network [system], wherein the user computer is capable of transmitting a domain request and the provider computer is capable of receiving the domain request, comprising:

 a name assignment system; and

 a hosting system, wherein the hosting system comprises a scheduler, a plurality of redirectors, a plurality of servers, and a data storage apparatus, wherein the redirectors includes a parsing mechanism, the parsing mechanism being capable of translating the domain request, which is transmitted by the user computer, to the provider defined data structure.

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